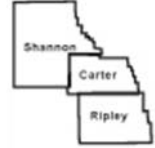




**Missouri Department of Conservation**  
**Projects, Issues and Programs in Shannon, Carter and**  
**Ripley Counties**



**Current Conversations**

***Eagles to Return to Twin Pines***

**Special Points  
of Interest**

**Eagles to Return to  
Twin Pines**

**Why Do I Trap?**

**CSP a Good Oppor-  
tunity for Forest  
Landowners**

**How Amphibians  
and Reptiles Survive  
Winter**

**Bowin' and Spikin'**

**Conservation means  
wise use of natural  
resources**

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Golden and Bald Eagles will visit Twin Pines Conservation Education Center on Friday, January 29th, 2010 for three shows. Pam Herd-Price, Dickerson Park Zoo Education Director and Paul Price, DPZ Volunteer will be including information on specialized structures, habitat and human interaction with the environment as she conducts the programs at 11:00 am and 1:00 pm. Although she doesn't reference the GLE numbers, educators will have no problem identifying them. At 6:00 pm there will be one additional show for the general public. Registration is requested.

Paul Price, who was involved with the Missouri Department of Conservation in the restoration efforts of the bald eagle, will be providing information on both the history of the eagle and general information regarding each of the types of eagles. Aquila, the Golden Eagle is larger than the Bald Eagle and known more to the western portion of Missouri although they are seen occasionally in the Ozarks. Golden Eagles are true eagles and are gorge eaters, meaning that they are likely to eat so much they can no longer fly when they find a large amount of meat on which to feast. These birds may be turned in as injured when all they

all they need is a little time to digest their meal.

The Bald Eagle is a fisher eagle and was nearly wiped out in Missouri due to the use of the insecticide DDT. The chemical made its way into the food chain and accumulated in the fat of the top predators. In some cases, this meant Bald Eagles. DDT caused the shells of the eggs to be so thin that the weight of the adult on the nest would crush the eggs. The use of DDT was banned in 1972 and restoration efforts on the Bald Eagle have



***Phoenix***

been so successful that the bird was removed from the Endangered and Threatened species lists last year. Phoenix was part of the restoration



*Aquila*

efforts at Dickerson Park Zoo who never learned to hunt for herself.

Like all raptors, both Golden and Bald Eagles are federally protected and it is illegal to cause harm to or possess any portion of the birds including a feather without a special permit.



*Trapping Tools*

## PROTECTION

### *Why Do I Trap?*

**Mark Wilcoxon**

**Carter County Conservation Agent**

Why do I trap? I ask myself that question a lot. I guess for the money, but I know there have been years when I spent more catching fur than I got back selling fur. It's the most difficult work I've ever done, and I can honestly say I love, almost, every minute of it.

I remember the first fox I ever saw. One December when I was about twelve years old I went squirrel hunting near Kniebert Lake in Wayne County. There was a spring where we would clean our squirrels and, after killing a few, I walked down there to clean them. When I got there I saw a one-legged man camping near the spring. I thought it was odd for him to be camping in the cold in the middle of nowhere, but I went ahead and started cleaning my squirrels.

I heard a commotion up on the hill above me and looked around to see a grey fox bouncing around. Thinking it was caught in a fence, I grabbed my gun and started to

shoot it, when the one-legged man hollered, "Don't shoot my fox!" Startled, I watched him hobble up the hill and dispatch the fox in his trap. I was hooked. I had to figure out how to catch my own fox.

Through a lot of trial and error I finally figured out how to catch fox and still remember the feeling I got when I caught my first one. Since that day years ago I have learned how to catch many of Missouri's other furbearers and can honestly say I still get that same feeling every time I approach a set. This may have something to do with why I trap, although there are still days when I wonder if it's worth it. Like when I trip over a log and fill my waders full of ice cold water beaver trapping in February or when I get to my best bobcat set and can smell the skunk that's in it before I ever see it.

*Continued on Page 3*

Why do I trap? I guess I could blame it on the unknown one-legged man camped at that .

spring so many years ago. If I ever see him again I'd like to shake his hand and thank him. If your're a hunter, fisherman,

or trapper, I would encourage you to take a youngster with you —the feeling they get may change their life.

## **PRIVATE LANDS**

### ***CSP a Good Opportunity for Forest Landowners***

**Don Foerster**

**Private Land Conservationist**

The new Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a very good opportunity for forest landowners who are interested in sustainable forestry practices. CSP is a voluntary conservation program which encourages agricultural and forestry producers to adopt additional conservation practices to improve and manage existing ones. The program is designed to reward landowners for doing conservation practices which enhance their forest resources and protect water quality.

Landowners who are in Forest Cropland or Tree Farm programs may be rewarded for their stewardship activities. Landowners with forest stewardship plans, forest harvest plans, or forest improvement plans prepared by a certified for-

ester and implemented on their forest lands also may be rewarded. Interested owners must be willing to do at least one additional conservation practice to be considered for a contract. Instead of helping correct poor land use this program rewards owners for good land use



Some of the conservation practice enhancements that will qualify are: construct and/or manage shallow water habitat, manage forested riparian zones, forest stand im-

provement for habitat and soil quality, restore and manage glades, woodlands, fens, sink-holes etc, establish pollinator habitat, hardwood crop tree release, prescribed burning, and protection of cultural resources.

Eligible lands must be non-industrial private forestland owned by individual producers, legal entities and/or Indian tribes. They also must meet several additional requirements to obtain a CSP contract: they must be listed as the operator in the USDA farm records management system for the operation being offered for enrollment; they must document that they control the land for the term of the contract and include all eligible forested land in their entire operation in that con-

*Continued on Page 4*

-tract; they must comply with highly erodible land and wetland conservation provisions; and they must comply with Adjusted Gross Income provisions. Contracts will be chosen from a state pool of applications based on current management practices and the number and type of conservation practice enhancements. Each contract will be for 5 years and payments will be made annually. The average expected nationwide payment will be in the vicinity of \$18 per acre. I would expect the dollar amount for forest land in the Ozarks to be \$5 - \$10 per acre per year. These amounts have not been set and may change.

The Conservation Stewardship Program will not meet the needs of every forest landowner but for those doing stewardship activities this program can help offset the cost. Forest owners managing their land for sustainable wood products may find this program enables them to meet their goals. Remember any time you apply for state or federal funding it takes both time and patience. Also program requirements must be followed as they are written.

If you are interested feel free to contact your local Natural

Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office or MDC Private Lands Conservationist for more information



## **WILDLIFE**

### ***How Amphibians and Reptiles Survive Winter***

**Rhonda Rimer**

**Natural History Biologist**

As the days get shorter and colder and fall transitions into winter you might notice that you don't see the frogs, turtles, snakes, and lizards that were common during the warmer months. These animals, which include both amphibians and reptiles, are cold blooded. This means that they cannot regulate their own body temperature and must assume the

temperature of their surroundings. For this reason, amphibians and reptiles have several different strategies that they use to survive cold winter temperatures.

Among aquatic amphibians, most frogs hibernate in or on the mud, although a few may be occasionally active during winter under the ice. Frogs

and other aquatic amphibians can breathe through the skin or mucous membrane lining the mouth. Some frogs, such as the wood frog, are known to be able to freeze solid and recover by flooding their body with glycogen—a sugar that acts like an anti-freeze. Most salamanders

**Continued on Page 5**



and toads hibernate under logs or stones near the ponds that they use for spring or summer breeding. Tiger salamanders, known for their white to yellow stripes and black body, spend most of their time in underground burrows regardless of the season.

Aquatic turtles typically hibernate in the mud like frogs. Hibernation in aquatic turtles is termed “brumation”. Besides breathing in the same way as frogs do during hibernation, turtles can also use blood-filled tissues in the anus to get oxygen from muddy water. Red-eared sliders brumate under water at the bottom of ponds or shallow lakes--though they have also been found under banks and in hollow stumps. They become inactive when the temperature falls below 50 F. In milder climates, sliders will become active on warm winter days and will come to the surface for basking. When the temperature drops again they then return to the brumation state. Snapping turtles brumate in a similar manner and may also rest under logs or occupy muskrat, beaver, or other holes in the pond or river bank. Occasionally you may see a turtle swimming under the ice of a pond or lake.

Lizards, snakes, and turtles that

live on land typically hibernate in burrows, rock dens, and under rocks and decaying logs. Some snakes, like the garter snake, are communal and will hibernate in groups.



*Spotted Salamander*



*Red eared Slider*

**Caught you looking!**

Send an e-mail to [melanie.carden-jessen@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:melanie.carden-jessen@mdc.mo.gov) or call 573-325-1381 for a chance to win a 2010 Natural Events calendar. Drawing held Feb. 1, 2010

## **Twin Pines Schedule**

### **December**

**12– Nature Nuts**

**13– Nature’s Gifts**

**17—Little Stinkers Storytime**

### **January**

**9- Nature Nuts**

**21– Little Stinkers Storytime**

**26– Volunteer Orientation training**

**29– Eagles from Dickerson Zoo**

### **February**

**2– Volunteer Training**

**3-5– Lewis & Clark program**

**13– Nature Nuts**

**18– Little Stinkers Storytime**

## FISHING

### *Bowin' and Spikin'*

**Melanie Carden-Jessen**

**Education Center Manager**

As a science teacher, one of the things I was responsible for teaching was the seasons. To assess the level of knowledge before each section, I would ask the students to tell me what they knew and what they wanted to learn about each topic. One of the best answers I ever read was to the question “What are the four seasons?” I was grateful that I was reading the answers after school because the answer this student gave was deer season, turkey season, trapping season and gigging season. The principal stuck her head in the door to see why I was laughing so loud.

Fall is of course time for brilliant color splashed across the rugged Ozarks hills but it is also time for gathering on the riverbank with friends, family and the deep fryer. Gigging season is here. Gigging began with a piece of fatwood or pine knot in a basket hung from the front of the boat and now involves generators and electric lights. The method

may have changed but the anticipation with each attempt is the same. This popular method of taking non-game fish with a long wooden pole and a three-prong metal fork has been around since the mid-1800s. Bowin' and spikin', another method of taking fish that began around the same time was pure Ozarks and lasted only about 150 years. *The Pioneers of the Ozarks* by Lennis Broadfoot describes in detail the life of John Counts, an Ozarker from Reynolds County who made his living by catching fish this way in the early 1900s. He describes making his bow of cedar and hammering out his spikes of old files. Bowin' and spikin' for fish didn't involve a boat. He waded slowly along the river and “scares the fish out from under rocks, logs, and old tree roots, and I shoot ‘em on the run; and boy can I get ‘em!” It is a wonder that the sport isn't still practiced on the clear Ozarks rivers.

Bowin' and spikin' used a

relatively short bow. Ray Joe Hastings describes these bows in his book *Bow and River Gigs Used in the Clear Streams of the Ozarks*. The average in his extensive collection is about 61 ½”. They were often made of cedar since it was readily available and easy to work. The points on the arrows ranged from small points to slightly larger three prong spikes.



*Gigging in 1850's*

Continued on Page 7

Although bowin' and spikin' has not been undertaken except in demonstrations such as at Twin Pines Heritage Day in April or the Broadfoot Days in May, gigging season is still in full swing. The season continues through January 31, 2010. Whatever your chosen method of fishing or favorite catch, get out there and spend some quality time with friends and family on the river. Make sure to share your passion with the next generation as well.



*Modern day gigging*



*Native American tool*

## **FORESTRY**

*Conservation means wise use of natural resources*

**Michael Bill**

**Resource Forester**

On May 8<sup>th</sup> of 2009 a large wind storm called a Direco hit southern Missouri with a vengeance. Several thousand acres of timber was broke off uprooted or severely damaged. What was first an emergency operation has turned into a long term plan for recovery.

After the storm MDC forestry staff sprung into action and helped local law enforcement, county governments, and utility companies open roads and check on the well being of people not able to get out due to storm debris. After the roads were cleared an incident command structure (similar to what the military uses) was created to evaluate the damage and assign personnel to different projects so salvage operation could occur in an efficient and prompt manner. MDC forestry staff used military satellite imagery as well as flying over the damaged areas use GPS mapping to identify areas that were hardest hit. This allowed for a quick evaluation of the areas affected. Within

one month from when the storm hit, salvage sales were identified on Sunklands and Angeline Conservation Areas. These areas were competitively bid to local loggers. In all 26 salvage sales on nearly 6000 acres were contracted. As of November 1, 2009 4.4 million board feet of saw timber has been removed. This is approximately 30-40% of the total volume still to be removed.

Although the areas will take decades to recover the removal of the damage timber has help the local economy, as well as reduced the likely hood of catastrophic wildfire. The Missouri Conservation Department has pledged to the citizens of Missouri that we will wisely manage the resources on conservation areas. These areas will slowly recover over time and will become good wildlife habitat for deer, rabbits, quail and turkeys.

# MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION

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## We're on the Web!

[www.missouriconservation.org](http://www.missouriconservation.org)

### MDC Mission

- To protect and manage the fish, forest, and wildlife resources of the state.
- To serve the public and facilitate their participation in resource management activities.
- To provide opportunity for all citizens to use, enjoy, and learn about fish, forest, and wildlife resources.

### Mission of this Newsletter

The mission of this newsletter is to share current information about conservation projects, issues, and program and to develop working relationships with the citizens of Shannon, Carter and Ripley Counties.

### Share Your Thoughts

If there are any subjects you would like to see in the *Conservation Currents* please contact any employee listed below, or if you have any questions pertaining to the Wildlife Code please contact the Conservation Agent assigned to your county. County assignments and phone numbers are listed below.

### Operation Game Thief and Operation Forest Arson

Sponsored by the Conservation Federation of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Conservation and the U.S. Forest Service.

## CONTACT OFFICES AND NAMES

**If you have a question about any of the following topics, here are your contact professionals**

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